



One-minute guide

Family Group Conference

What is a family group conference?

Family group conferences provide an opportunity for extended families and their networks (such as friends and neighbours) to come together and discuss the concerns that have been raised by children's services about a child's wellbeing. They allow family and network member's views to be clearly heard and for the group to help make important decisions about the children and young people they care about. The goal is to make a plan, written in the families own words, that details how the family and network would like to support one another to address the concerns and improve the care of the child/ren.

- Having an FGC is voluntary.
- Everyone's views will be listened to, including the child/ren.
- The FGC coordinator is neutral and is not on anyone's side.
- The family chooses who to invite to the conference.

What are the expectations of the referring social worker?

To fully explain the FGC process and aims to both parents and gain their consent to proceed, before making a referral.

- Prepare the family and child/ren for the FGC process.
- To make an accurate a timely referral, completing all sections of the referral form, with clear questions and concerns that need to be addressed within the meeting.
- To be invested in the process and to respond in a timely manner to any questions the FGC Coordinator has.
- To attend the FGC for the duration of the meeting, which is usually circa 2 hours.
- To review the plan with the family, if and when needed.

How to ask for support from the FGC team?

If you are unsure if your case would benefit from an FGC you can call or email the team.

- We have suggested questions to pose to the network that you can adapt and personalise to the needs of your case.
- Once you have completed your referral, email your form to: FGC/FAM/SCC
fgc@surreycc.gov.uk